

## **MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS INTERIM (#2) PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** MONTANA  
**GRANT TITLE:** Yellowstone Corridor Native Fish & Wildlife Survey  
**AGREEMENT:** T - 28 - 1  
**PERIOD COVERED:** January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

### **Objective**

1. Describe seasonal movement patterns and habitat use of adult blue sucker, channel catfish, and burbot.
2. Identify and describe blue sucker spawning habitats.
3. Identify potential burbot spawning aggregations
4. Develop stock forecasting methods, stock assessment methods, and investigate how environmental factors affect the spawning, migration, and fishing success of paddlefish.
5. Describe distribution of snapping and soft-shell turtles, as well as movements and habitat use of spiny soft-shell turtles.
6. Determine distribution and nesting success of interior least terns, piping plovers, and bald eagles.

### **Location**

The study will occur in the Yellowstone River Corridor in southeastern Montana, between Billings and the North Dakota border.

### **Accomplishments**

Objectives for the second season of the Yellowstone River corridor native species project were successfully achieved; most transmitters were implanted (n=289) and tracking of telemetered fish and turtles to determine seasonal movements and habitat selection continued. Large maximum seasonal movements were observed for blue sucker (817 km), shovelnose sturgeon (322 km), burbot (193 km), channel catfish (209 km), and spiny soft-shell turtles (47 km). High rates of transmitter expulsion occurred for some species (catfish, burbot) but most expelled transmitters (45) were recovered. All habitats upstream to Intake Diversion were delineated and a representative random sample of these were characterized in the field. A total of 31 bald eagle nests were documented and two interior least terns were observed.

Second season objectives in Region 5 (confluence with the Big Horn River upstream to above the confluence with the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River) include implanting remaining transmitters (39), relocating telemetered fish and turtles, and quantifying habitat characteristics.

Objectives for the third season of work in Region 7 (confluence with Missouri River upstream to the confluence with the Big Horn River) include implanting recovered transmitters into catfish, implanting smaller transmitters (50) into burbot to reduce expulsion, evaluation of shovelnose sturgeon spawning habitats, and delineation and characterization of all remaining habitats.

The summary report of work completed is attached.

**Variances:**

None

**Expenditure Recap:**

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	300,000.00		117,985.00		417,985.00
Indirect Costs	53,955.00				53,955.00
Total	353,955.00	75.0%	117,985.00	25.0%	471,940.00

Current Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	177,272.28		69,220.56		246,649.84
Indirect Costs	31,047.33				31,047.33
Total	208,319.61	75.0%	69,220.56	25.0%	277,540.17

Expense Detail:

Salary & Benefits	73,284.81
Lodging & Travel	18,463.24
Equipment & Supplies	64,785.54
Contracted Services	15,043.00
Aircraft Flights	
Misc.	5,695.69
Total	\$ 177,272.28

Non-federal match was contributed by FWP (\$69,220.56) for additional equipment expenditures.

Expenditure Summary (through interim reports 1 and 2):

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	279,806.50		109,450.37		389,256.87
Indirect Costs	49,264.35				49,264.35
Total	329,070.85	75.0%	109,450.37	25.0%	438,521.22

**Project Personnel**

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